

THE C4 NEWSLETTER

Colonial Coin Collectors Club

George Washington's Funeral Urn



By Paul Revere

Spring, 1999 . Volume 7 Number 1

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Ads for this newsletter can be purchased as follows:

	1 issue	2 issues	3 issues	Copy size
1 page	\$50	\$75	\$125	4-1/2"x 7-1/2"
1/2 page	30	45	75	4-1/2"x 3-3/4"

If you want to include a photo with your ad at an additional \$10. Black and white photo needed, size can be adjusted to fit. Please send check with your ad. We can accept camera ready copy or any Microsoft Word compatible computer file.

All members also have the right to include a free classified ad in the newsletter of up to 13 lines.



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Editor's Notes

Angel Pietri

Welcome to the first issue of the newsletter for 1999. I hope you all enjoy it.

Please do not forget to send us your thoughts on any matter related to the club or to the contents of this newsletter. We need your contributions to keep this an interesting medium of exchange of ideas. I would also like to encourage those of you who presented material at the convention to write up your presentation for the benefit of all those members who were unable to attend.

Dues

Every year I get a couple of queries about our dues collection policy. Some people are concerned that they joined C4 during the second or third quarter of a given year, yet dues are called for at the beginning of the year. The reason for this is merely for simplicity. Rather than mail a series of staggered invoices, we put a reminder in the newsletter at the beginning of each year, and keep repeating it through the fall issue. Nobody gets penalized for not paying dues after the first announcement. If you join the club after September, you get credited for the next year. Only if you have not paid your dues by convention time do you get dropped as a member. So I hope that nobody feels short-changed by being asked to pay dues early in the year.

And in case anyone has not gotten the message from the above, this is the second reminder. Checks should be payable to C4. Dues details are found in the first page.

***President's Message: Colonial Activities at EAC***

Dennis Wierzba

EAC is almost upon us. The Convention will be held at the Drawbridge Inn in Ft. Mitchell, KY from 4/15-4/18/99. As usual, C4 will have a club table. Angel will be available to photograph your coins for our library. This is our semi-annual chance to come together once again to talk about colonial copper.

I will be running the colonial Happening on Thursday night with my son, Michael. The following coppers will be featured during the happening at 7 PM on Thursday April 15th:

St. Patrick Halfpennies: All varieties in any grade, especially any C reverse.

New Jersey coppers 70-x, 71-y, 72-z, 72.5, 73-aa, and 79-85.

Connecticut coppers: Any Machin Mills produced coppers.

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For those that cannot come to EAC, C4 will return to Boston on 11/5-11/7/99. Once again, M & G will run the 1999 C4 auction, and they need consignments.

As for other business, the special leather-bound, photo-plated Vermont book will be sold at \$200. Please place your order with Dan Freidus.



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C4 Items for Sale

C4 Convention Items for Sale

Hardbound Scott Barnes Catalogs \$50

Hardbound Third C4 Convention Catalogue \$50

***A small number of Hardbound catalogues of the recent 4th
convention sale will be made, also for \$50,
Call or write Dennis if you are interested.***

Add \$3 postage and handling. All will be sent uninsured at buyer's risk. If you want insurance, add an appropriate amount. Please forward your check to Dennis, payable to C4, at the address below.

The Richard Picker Collection Lot Envelopes

Stack's has provided C4 with Picker's own customized envelopes from his collection sold in October 1984. They are available from the club for \$5 each if you can show adequate proof that you own the coin. This \$5 donation is for the club's treasury, thanks to Stack's. All unsold envelopes will be returned to Stack's. If you own any of these coins and would like to own the envelope, contact me at the address below.

Dennis Wierzba



IN MEMORIAM

Martin Oghigian

The recent passing of Martin Oghigian saddens us all. We knew Marty well and we will miss him. Marty was a strong friend to numismatics. He collected wisely, always with an eye for the historical importance of the coin as well as its value. Over the years, we sold Marty many of the great rarities he owned, including his 1792 Silver Center Cent and his 1792 Getz Half Dollar.

Marty was also a good friend to his fellow collectors. The understanding and encouragement he offered his friend, the late Jack Collins, was instrumental in helping Jack finish his book on the history and census of the 1794 Dollar.

Marty was as tireless in his search for excellence in his hobby as he was in his search for truth in his profession. The state of California and the city of Los Angeles have both lost a strong champion of law and order.

Stack's offers our condolences to his family on their loss, as well as our assurance that Marty's example will not soon be forgotten.

The logo for Stack's, featuring the word "Stack's" in a stylized, cursive script font with a registered trademark symbol.

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Letters to the Editor

The Colonial Economy- more comments

I was very impressed with Angel Pietri's article, "The Colonial Economy," in the Summer (Volume 6 Number 2) *C4 Newsletter* and the interest stimulated in two subsequent commentaries by Mike Hodder and Russell Easterbrooks in the Fall (Volume 6 Number 3) issue. The work Angel reviewed, *The Economy of Colonial America* by Edwin J. Perkins, is one which escaped my attention when I summarized the colonial economy in my book, *Money of the American Colonies and Confederation*. As a result of Angel's enthusiasm, I have since read this new reference, which, too, receives my endorsement. In addition to the money supply issue, I was particularly impressed by Perkins's excellent review of colonial population studies and occupational groups, and how each contributed to the emerging economy. This demographic treatment far exceeded anything else I had previously read.

As Angel noted, the newer scholarship related by Perkins explodes some traditional teaching which had permeated the numismatic literature regarding colonial money supplies. To complement the Perkins work, I would recommend two other very helpful references which assisted me when I was preparing my own book. The first is *Money and Exchange in Europe and America, 1600 - 1775*, by John J. McCusker (University of North Carolina Press, 1978), and a collaborative work by McCusker and Russell R. Menard, *The Economy of British North America 1607 - 1789* (University of North Carolina Press, 1985). This later book describes the role of postwar recessions as one of the factors responsible for the cyclic, temporary contraction of the money supply during periods of economic slowdown. But despite these occasional blips, there was adequate money and the colonial economy prospered over the long haul.

In his commentary, Mike Hodder mentioned the chronic shortage of coined silver in metropolitan England, a situation no doubt exacerbated in wartime. This dearth of hard money had led to the

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prohibition against exportation of specie coins, except to pay troops on foreign soil. Historically, both gold and silver circulated in Europe at a variable ratio. In England the ratio started at 9:1 during the reign of Henry III, increased to 11:1 during the times of Elizabeth I, and then after the influx of both silver and gold from Spanish-American mines, it stabilized around 15:1. Even though more silver poured into Europe than gold, there was a net outward silver drain toward the developing East India markets where the demand for this metal was so high that the local ratio was as low as 9 or 10:1 in China and Japan. At the end of the 17th century in Spain, the fixed official mint ratio was 16:1 whereas the fluctuating market ratio could be as low as 14 or 15:1 when a ship arrived with more gold than silver, and up to 18:1 if laden with a larger silver cargo. This was an inherent defect with a bimetallic standard since the independently variable prices of gold and silver in the market place danced around each other depending on the current supply vs. demand. Practically speaking, the relative weights of precious metal in silver and gold denominations of minted coins might become completely out of synchrony with market forces. In England, the market price of silver usually exceeded the price paid by the Mint for the metal, and so bullion traders, rather than clipping newly minted coins which had sported a milled edge since 1662, just tossed the entire coin into the melting pot and sent it on its way east at a handsome profit. In other words, 21 shillings in silver in new coins right from the mint could fetch 21½ shillings in gold on the street. The practical result was that full weight silver coinage in England practically disappeared from circulation despite Mint production from the re-coining of William III in 1696 until the adoption of the gold standard in 1816. This scenario was described by Alexander Hamilton in his famous memorial, "On the Establishment of a Mint."

As early as 1701, Sir Isaac Newton, Master of the Mint, alarmed by the displacement of silver due to the influx of gold, urged the reduction in the value of the gold guinea up to one shilling, relative to silver. This easy solution fell on deaf ears until 1816 when a single gold standard was adopted and silver became a subsidiary coinage. The lamentable condition of the silver coinage in the face of a surplus of counterfeit coppers is neatly summarized by Feavearyear (p. 171).

(I used this in my book [p. 119] and beg your indulgence to repeat it again because it is so timely.)

“Thus by the last quarter of the eighteenth century the copper money was getting into as bad a condition as the silver, and no one seems to have been able to make satisfactory proposals for dealing with either. There was a shortage of silver coins because the Mint made them too heavy. There was an excess of copper ones (i.e. counterfeits, PLM) because the Mint made them (i.e., the legal ones, PLM) too light (which in turn encouraged excess counterfeit production, PLM.). So long as it was beyond the administrative capacity of government to put down counterfeiting, the remedy for the position clearly lay in making copper coins much heavier and the silver ones a trifle lighter. Public opinion was strongly in favor of raising the weight of the coppers coins so that they should contain their full value of metal, but there was no willingness as yet to see the silver coins degraded to mere tokens.”

The above paragraph tells us lots of things. For about 120 years, silver coin, more valuable as a commodity than as money, was sent off to the bullion market. This shortage prompted a variety of ineffective restrictions to keep it at home. Counterfeit silver coins sprang to fill the vacuum since fake silver was better than no silver at all. Legal coppers were so light that it became very profitable to counterfeit them. Even though corrective measures were advocated by Newton, they were ignored for more than a hundred years while the English copper and silver media languished in complete shambles.

Now just what does all this have to do with numismatics? What we collect are the artifacts of this colonial and metropolitan economy - that is the successful coinages (and of course their counterfeits!) which were current in British North America. We are discussing here the historical and economic context in which this money circulated. Needless to say, this is one of my pet subjects and I look forward to more of this dialogue continuing as Angel deals with two important players on the American scene, Robert Morris and Alexander Hamilton.

Spring, 1999

Philip L. Mossman

References:

Albert Feavearyear, *The Pound Sterling, the History of English Money*, (Oxford, 1963), 2nd ed. pp. 151-54, 171-72.

W.A. Shaw, *The History of Currency 1252-1894* (London, 1896), repr. pp. 229-32.

W.A. Shaw, *English Monetary History 1626-1730* (London, 1896, repr. 1967), pp. 136-39.

Alexander Hamilton, *American State Papers, Finance* (Washington, 1832), vol. 1, p. 93.



New Jersey d/d reverse

In reference to the article in the fall 1998 C-4 newsletter entitled "Double "d" reverse- My Favorite New Jersey Copper" by Buell Ish I commend him on his numismatic mystery salving regarding his "two-tailed" New Jersey copper. His article shows an unusual depth into the subject matter, exploring all of the possible ways that this error could occur. His research clearly took a serious commitment of time and energy in order to explore this fascinating piece and the possibility of how it came to be.

Only a true numismatist would take on such a labor of love, and I thank Buell for sharing his research with us. I seriously enjoyed the path that his research took us down, and thanks for the enjoyment.

Sincerely
Robert Rhue



The Washington Funeral Urn Medal and Paul Revere

by Angel Pietri

The Washington funeral medals are one of the most popular items of Washingtonia due to their American production as well as to their time of issue and contemporaneous commemoration of his death. These medals (Fig. 1), with the exception of Baker 164, have been attributed to Jacob Perkins, also known for his role in the Massachusetts mint as well as his innovations in paper money manufacture.

The two major types are the skull and crossbones variety (Baker 165) and the funeral urn varieties (Baker 166). The former was according to Baker, used for a Masonic funeral procession held in Boston on February 11, 1800. The latter was supposedly used for a civic procession held later. However, while reading recently about Paul Revere, I came across some information that casts serious doubt on the assertion by Baker that the funeral urn medal was a non-Masonic medal.

Paul Revere was a very prominent member of Boston's Masonic fraternity, having been Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts at one time. In her book "Paul Revere and the World He Lived In" by the late Esther Forbes, she describes Revere's involvement in the events surrounding this Masonic funeral procession.

Shortly after Washington's death on December 14, 1799, Paul Revere was asked by his Lodge to write a letter of condolence to Martha Washington on behalf of his fellow Masons. At the end of this letter he adds the following. "The Grand Lodge have subjoined an order that a *Golden Urn* be prepared as a deposit for a lock of hair, an *invaluable* relique of the Hero and Patriot," to be preserved "with the jewels and regalia of the Society. Should this favor be granted, Madam, it will be cherished as the most precious jewel in the cabinet of the Lodge." Paul Revere did make this small gold urn for the procession.



Baker 165: Skull and crossbones variety



Baker 166: Funeral urn variety

Fig. 1: George Washington funeral medals by Jacob Perkins

Forbes recounts some of the events of the procession as described by Isaiah Thomas, a Worcester book publisher and printer, who was also a Mason. Funeral processions in general were popular events at the time, and Masonic events apparently always drew a crowd. Masons from all parts of Massachusetts came to this event. Following is a textual reproduction of Ms. Forbes entry in her book, with the quotes being from Thomas' account. "First came 'Two grand Pursevants, clad in sable robes, and weeds, mounted on elegant white horses, properly caparisoned bearing an elliptical(sic)

Arch' with a sacred text on it in silver. Besides them walked 'two continental veterans in uniform with their badges of merit.' Then followed on and on (starting from the old State House) a deputy marshal, nine stewards of the lodges, 'suitable shrouded' tylers, entered apprentices. Fellow crafts, master Masons. Another deputy marshal, more stewards-with mourning slaves and deacons with 'mourning wands'. 'An elderly mason bearing an elegant figure of Minerva on a banner-she being an emblem of wisdom.' 'Three times three sons of masons about 11 years of age bearing Sprigs of Cassia' and nine daughters of Masons with baskets of flowers. These children were also dressed in black. The 'reverent clergy of the Fraternity'; and so on until at last a large symbolic urn. This was three feet high, made of 'artificial white marble composition.' In it was a relic of the deceased (probably the lock of hair). Weeping over this urn was 'the genius of masonry.' The whole thing was shrouded with a pall and six pallbearers marched three on a side-one of whom was Paul Revere, who, like the rest, was 'drest(sic) in full mourning with white scarves.' A band played appropriate music. Everyone (except the small daughters of Masons) carried sprigs of what they called 'cassia.' As this magic herb does not grow wild in New England, they may have contented themselves with twigs of local hemlock. The procession left the Old State House at ten, but it was not until five o'clock when at last 'The brethren returned to the old state house, unclothed and separated'."

The Reverend William Bentley of Salem delivered the funeral sermon. After the procession, he accepted an invitation to supper by Paul Revere. It was Bentley's father who had rowed Revere across the Charles River the night of his fateful ride to Lexington.

Bentley, a fellow Mason, was not only a minister, but also a student of natural history and a renowned linguist. Arabic being one of the twenty languages he could read, he played a key role during the crisis with the North African pirates by translating all state papers written in Arabic during those negotiations. In his diary, Bentley describes that night's meeting. Also invited were the well-known Isaiah Thomas and Jacob Perkins. Of Perkins he writes "And also present was Mr. Perkins of Newburyport-so eminent for his mechanic genius, & on this occasion so well known by his excellent medals...of our



“Our Most Treasured Possession
A lock of Hair of
General George Washington
Graciously given by His Widow
And carefully kept in
The Golden Urn
Made by Paul Revere”

Fig. 2: Illustration of Gold Urn owned by the Grand Lodge of Masons in Boston, Massachusetts as it appears on their Announcement for the Feast of St. John the Evangelist held December 27, 1967. Urn appears in the front cover, and text appears in the back cover.

Courtesy of the Grand Lodge of Masons, Boston, Massachusetts.

General Washington.” Mr. Bentley also mentions “In addition to our company, we had the ingenious Mr. Reynolds, who formed the admirable Urn & the weeping inoent (sic) which was displayed with so great success by the Brethren for the Public admiration. He exhibited for our entertainment several busts in artificial stone which had great effect & were honourable(sic) to his talents.” Very little else is known of Mr. Reynolds, and his works of artificial stone were apparently too frail to survive. The three-foot urn carried during the procession is not known to survive by neither the Grand Lodge, The American Antiquarian Society, nor the Paul Revere House Association. However, the smaller gold urn by Revere does, with the lock of Washington’s hair in it. It still is, as Revere predicted, among the most valued jewels held by The Grand Lodge of Masons of Massachusetts. They still pull it out every three years for a ceremonial parade in Boston. They would not show it at any other time, but during my visit to the Lodge’s library this past November 1998 during C4’s convention they were kind enough to supply me with an illustration of the Urn (Fig.2). According to the librarian, the Urn is roughly the same size as seen in the illustration (about 4” high).

The inscription on the Urn reads as follows:

This URN incloses(sic) a Lock of HAIR
of the Immortal WASHINGTON
PRESENTED JANUARY 27, 1800
to the Massachusetts GRAND LODGE
by HIS amiable WIDOW.

Born Feb. 11th, 1732

Ob. Dec,14, 1799

Again I resorted to the American Antiquarian Society for help. They were kind enough to send me copies of all newspaper descriptions of funeral parades for Washington referred to in Boston’s *Columbian Centinel(sic)* and *Massachusetts Federalist* of the time. This was a biweekly (Wednesday and Saturday) newspaper published by Benjamin Russell. There is a very good description of the Masonic event held on February 11, 1800. Figure 3 is a reproduction of the

Boston,

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1800.

Masonic Funeral Solemnities.

AGREEABLY to previous notice, the GRAND LODGE of *Massachusetts* yesterday performed Masonic Funeral Services, in honor of their illustrious deceased Brother, GEORGE WASHINGTON. The tolling of the bells at 8 o'clock, commenced the ceremonies. At 11, a Grand Procession, composed of upwards of sixteen hundred Brethren, was formed at the Old State House, and moved from thence in the following order:—

TWO GRAND PURSUIVANTS,

Clad in sable robes and weeds, mounted on elegant white horses, properly caparisoned, bearing an elliptical mourning Arch (14 feet in the clear) with the sacred text, in silver characters—*"Blessed are the Dead which die in the Lord—For they do rest from their Labours."* The Pursuivants were supported by two continental veterans, in uniform, with their badges of merit.

A Deputy Marshal

Nine Stewards of Lodges, with wands suitably shrouded.

Two Tilters.

Entered Apprentices of all Lodges.

Fellow Crafts.

Master Masons.

A Deputy Marshal.

Stewards of Lodges, with mourning Staves.

Deacons of Lodges, with mourning Wands.

Secretary and Treasurers.

Junior and Past Junior Wardens.

Senior and Past Senior Wardens.

Past Masters.

The Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, as Past Masters.

Masters of Lodges.

An elderly Mason bearing an elegant Figure of *Minerva* on a banner,—emblem "*Wisdom*."

Three times three Sons of Masons, about 11 years of age, bearing *Sprigs of cassia*; the centre supporting the banner of "*Strength*."

Fig.3: Boston's Masonic funeral procession for George Washington as described in "The Columbian Centinel".

A Mason's Son bearing a banner, emblematical of
"Beauty."
 Nine Daughters of Masons, each bearing a basket of
 flowers.

*The Sons and Daughters were clad in Funeral
 Uniforms.*

A Deputy Marshal.

A full band of Music—

The Masters of the Three Eldest Lodges, bearing three
 Candlesticks, with candles, the right one extinguished.

The Rev. Clergy of the Fraternity.

A Master Mason, bearing a black Cushion, with the
 Holy Writings, and a Grand Master's Jewel.

Eight relieving Toilers.

Pall Supporters.

RE. W. D. SCODLAY,

RE. W. RE. BARTLETT,

RE. W. BR. CUNLIER,

THE
URN

Pall Supporters.

R. W. BR. MORTON.

R. W. BR. REVERE.

R. W. BR. WARREN.

*The Funeral Insignia—A Pedestal, covered
 with a Pall, the escutcheons of which were character-
 istic drawings on satin, of Faith, Hope, Charity, Bro-
 therly Love, Relief, and Truth. The Pedestal beside
 the Urn, which was upwards of three feet in length,
 and which contained a reliq. of the illustrious Deceas-
 ed, bore also a representation of the Grades of Mason-
 ry, weeping over the Urn; and other suitable emblems.*

*The whole of white marble, and on the Urn
 was this inscription: "Set aside to the Memory of
 Brother GEORGE WASHINGTON; raised to
 the ALL PERFECT Lodge, Dec. 14, 1799.—Ripe
 in years and full of age."*

A Charger,

Properly and superbly caparisoned, led by two brethren.

Grand Marshal.

The Most Worshipful Br. DUNN, as Chief Mourner,
 attended by the

Grand Deacons, and Grand Sword Bearer.

The Deputy Grand Master.

Grand Wardens.

Grand Chaplain and Orators.

Past Grand Officers,

Grand Treasurer and Secretary.

Fig 3: Continued.

Three Grand Stewards—heating an *Arch* with the inscription, “*And their works they do follow them.*”

By The Grand Master, Pall Bearers, and Grand Officers, were dressed in full mourning, with white scarfs, and weeds.

Each brother bore a sprig of cassia; and every one wore appropriate badges of mourning.

In this order the procession moved through several of the principal streets, to the Old South Meeting House; where the solemnities commenced by an appropriate, fervent and judicious prayer, by the Rev. Dr. ECKLEY. To this succeeded the following Ode, written by the Rev. Br. HARRIS, and sung by Br. Dr. FAY, and a choir of Brethren.

ANNIVERSARY ODE.

Is this the anniversary so dear,
The gayest festival in Paganon's year,
When millions meet their gratitude to pay
To their Deliverer on his natal day;
And glad applauses echoed through the throng,
And fervent joy inspired the choral song;

It is! but ah how chang'd! its joys are o'er!
Its WASHINGTON—its *high light*—is no more!

To civic triumphs, funeral rights succeed;
To flowery garlands, this encircling weed,
And to loud paeans sounding to the skies,
Low solemn dirges, and heart-rending sighs;
While those who welcom'd once the martyr's return
Assemble now around his patron's urn.

How chang'd the day! its glad scenes are o'er
Its WASHINGTON—its *high light*—is no more!

An EULOGY, illustrative of the life, character, virtues and services of the glorious deceased, was then delivered by the Hon. Brother BROWN, of Groton; which did justice to the subject, and honor to the speaker. It contained an assemblage of chaste portraits of the illustrious WASHINGTON, drawn as a Warrior, a Statesman, a Citizen, a Christian, a Man, and a Mason—adorned with suitable improvements for direction.

The Grand Chaplain then pronounced a Benediction, and the Solemnities of the House, were finished by the following Masonic Dirge, by Rev. Br. HARRIS, sung by Br. EATON, and the choir:—

Fig 3: Continued

MASONIC DIRGE.

Will all every orator and bard display
The Hero's glory and the Patriot's fame,
And all the Guardians of their Country praise,
Forever his greatness and his worth proclaim.

His mouth the Maw, made ours by tenderness;
Their honor'd CHIEFTAIN, our lov'd BROTHER, died!

Come then, the mystic rites no more delay,
Deep silence reigns, the tapers dimly burn,
WISDOM and FORTITUDE the requiem pay,
And BEAUTY strews fresh garlands round the urn.

A *Masa*, brothers! a *GRAVE* *MASERA* dies!
The *acacia* sprig designates where he lies.

As LOVE FRATERNITY leads our foot steps there,
Again to weep again to bid adieu;
FAITH views the soul, recall'd from mortal care,
Through spheres empyreal its best course pursue.

'Till in the Lodge of Perfect Light attain,
There may we meet our WASHINGTON again!

From the Old South, the Procession moved to the Stone Chapel, where an appropriate Funeral Service was performed by the Rev. Br. BENTLEY, Grand Chaplain, assisted by the Rev. Br. Dr. WALTER. The flowers were then strewed, and the casket deposited. The Brethren returned in procession to the Old State-House, unclashed, and separated.

Having attended the Interment, in the Procession, the Editor must solicit Indulgence for Inaccuracies.

Pall Supporters.

RE. W. B. SCODLAY,

RE. W. BR. BARTLETT,

RE. W. BR. CUTLER,

THE
URN
N

Pall Supporters.

RE. W. BR. MORRIS.

RE. W. BR. REVERE.

RE. W. BR. WARREN.

At The Funeral Insignia—A Pedestal, covered with a Pall, the escutcheons of which were characteristic drawings on satin, of Faith, Hope, Charity, Brotherly-Love, Relief, and Truth. The Pedestal beside the Urn, which was upwards of three feet in length, and which contained a reliet of the illustrious Deceased, bore also a representation of the Genes of Masonry, weeping over the Urn; and other suitable emblems.

Fig 3: Continued

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article. It is hard to read, but you can surmise that the text reads almost identical to the passages quoted by Ms. Forbes from Isaiah Thomas' diary. This suggests that Thomas may have written himself the newspaper article. In any event, it is obvious that the Urn was the centerpiece of the parade.

The *Columbian Centinel* also has several other descriptions of funeral ceremonies held in honor of Washington near that time. There was a civic event in Malden on Jan 8, in Boston on January 9, in Berwick and Bingham on January 13. The February 26 issue describes several other civic mourning events held around the date of Washington birthday held in Boston, Plymouth, Newton, and Cambridge. In addition, they report two out of state processions. One was the large procession held in New York City on December 31, 1799. The other one was held on January 9, 1800 in Old York, Maine. The only one of these reports that mentions any urns is the New York City parade which mentions three. The representatives of the thirteen tribes (thirteen colonies) carried flags in with the state arms and a black urn on a white background representing the repository of Washington's ashes. The Masonic representatives to this parade also had an urn carried by the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of New York. Cotinental veterans, each accompanied by members of the Society of the Cincinnati, carried the third urn on a platform. This was a "funeral URN three feet high, of burnished gold, with the name Washington in black".

In summary, the Urn was the centerpiece and major theme of the Masonic parade, with Revere's gold urn still being among the Mason's treasures. None of the reviewed descriptions of the other parades in Boston refer to an urn. In addition, Jacob Perkins was a well-known Mason, a participant at the parade, and apparently a friend of Paul Revere. Furthermore, we should take note of Reverend Bentley's comment about Perkins that "on this occasion so well known by his excellent medals...of our General Washington." Taking into consideration all of the above, it seems to me that both Baker 165 and 166 were made by Perkins for the Masonic event, and not for two separate events like Baker stated. My guess is that Perkins made these for sale at the event, and since the Urn was such

a centerpiece of the event, it proved to be much more popular than the skull and crossbones design. This could at least in part account for their different rarities. The gold ones, being much more expensive, were produced in lesser quantities and even less were sold. Of course, this is only speculation, but it seems logical to me.

This story also adds an interesting twist to these medals by tying them historically to Paul Revere.



The Great Hudson Chain. Prelude to Machin's Mills

By Russell Easterbrooks

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John Hancock once said: "Preserve the materials necessary to a particular and clear history of the American Revolution. They will yield uncommon entertainment to the inquisitive and curious, and at the same time, afford the most useful and important lessons not only to our own posterity but to all succeeding generations.

Thomas Machin's private mint, known as Machin's Mills, and the wide variety of copper coins that were manufactured there, have been of interest to numismatists for many years. In 1875 in *Early Coins of America*, Sylvester S. Crosby told much of Machin's coining facilities and the pieces produced, but relatively little about Machin himself

In other locations, notes of the life and military career surrounding Captain Thomas Machin show the character and abilities as well as the versatility of a revolutionary patriot. George Washington once said that Machin was "an ingenious faithful hand, and one that has considerable experience as an engineer."

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Born in England March 20, 1744, Thomas Machin was the son of a mathematician. He entered the military at the age of 15 and was involved in fighting the French during the Seven-Year War. When he left the military service he took a job as an assistant surveyor for James Brindley, an engineer, who at that time was constructing the first English barge canal. This impressive facility allowed coal to be transported 40 miles from the mine directly to Liverpool.

In his early twenties, Machin sailed to America as a mining consultant, where he evaluated newly discovered copper deposits in northern New Jersey. During 1772 Machin found himself part of revolutionary politics. Now living in Boston, he was one of the 117 Sons of Liberty who took part in the Boston Tea Party. After war broke out, Machin joined and fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill where he was wounded. Shortly after recovering from his injuries he accepted a commission in the Continental Artillery as a second lieutenant under the command of fellow Tea Party participant Colonel Henry Knox.

Machin's engineering ability emplacing cannons at Boston impressed General Washington, who later ordered him to Fort Montgomery to act as an engineer in the work on the fortifications.

British shipping on the Hudson River created the need to obstruct the enemy's navigation. An investigative committee proposed that a chain to be stretched across the river at its narrowest place, near Fort Montgomery. Machin was ordered to start engineering the project and to contact a furnace capable of manufacturing the iron links. Having spent time evaluating copper mines in northern New Jersey, Machin chose to contact Robert Erskine's Ringwood furnace. In autumn 1776 this facility produced the bulk of the 276 links, 303 clips, and 197 bolts necessary to complete the first Hudson River chain. The manufacturing was completed in only nine weeks, after which it took dozens of oxen to haul the heavy wagons along rough forest roads to the river.

Winter was at hand and soon ice would be drifting along the river. However, the chain needed to be tested for use the following spring. The links were connected and placed across log rafts for support. After the chain was drawn across the river, it was firmly anchored on both shores. The chain held a short time, but enormous pressure snapped it during two separate testings. The major American effort to block the Hudson seemed ill fated. Determined to succeed with the project, Machin re-examined the chain and insisted that it was serviceable and that it was the best approach to obstructing the river.

In December Machin was authorized to have blacksmiths replace any questionable links and refix the chain the following spring. Machin met with Washington to give a first-hand report on the progress of the chain and receive his commission as captain.

In early April 1777 the 1,650-foot chain was drawn across the river at a sharper angle than it had previously been tried. This time it held perfectly.

On October 6, 1777, after a large body of Continental soldiers left Fort Montgomery to assist Washington in Philadelphia, the fort was attacked. The undermanned stronghold was overwhelmed, and Machin took a musket ball in his shoulder while firing a cannon. The retreating soldiers helped Machin escape, leaving the chain across the Hudson unprotected. British Commodore Sir William Hotham took command of Fort Montgomery. In his report to Admiral Howe he said; "I have directed such part of the chain and boom as cannot be saved to be destroyed, the construction of both give strong proofs of labor, industry, and skill."

By 1778, the threat of British shipping once again brought about the decision to construct another chain to obstruct the Hudson, this time at West Point. Captain Machin was requested to draw up the specifications and find a furnace capable of smelting and forging a chain nearly twice as strong as the one at Fort Montgomery. The Sterling Iron works was chosen to produce the 750-link chain.

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Machin's observations of the operations at this large iron works no doubt served him well in his later manufacturing of copper coins.

While the chain was being forged, the fort to protect it and a road to the river were constructed. By mid-1778 the chain was assembled and put in place at West Point. Captain Machin received congratulations from General Washington and New York Governor Clinton for his accomplishment.

It is not too far-fetched to contemplate that large cents minted in 1793 at the first U.S. mint, and known to numismatists as "Chain cents," maybe had (were) designed to symbolize Machin's achievement.

Captain Machin's last days during the Revolution were spent emplacing cannons at Yorktown. At the end of the war he settled near Newburgh, New York. On March 3, 1787, Machin petitioned New York for the right to produce copper coins. New York's lack of interest in such a project left Machin with the decision to start his own private mint. Utilizing a building he had erected in 1784 on Orange Pond, and with the aid of six partners, Machin Mills was established. Machin's associates included Samuel Atlee and James Atlee who were said to be in possession of certain implements necessary for the coining trade. James Atlee had been an engraver at the New Jersey mint for copper coins at Rahway Mills.

On June 7, 1787, Machin Mills expanded its partnership to 10, which included, most notably, Rueben Harmon, Jr., the Vermont coiner, and Daniel Van Voorhis, a New York City goldsmith.

The coining operations were conducted in secret. Many different varieties of copper coins were made, most notably counterfeits of British halfpennies. These coins were struck from shallow-relief dies made to give the coins the appearance of having been in circulation.

Many Vermont coppers of 1787 and most dated 1788 are of lighter weight than earlier Vermont coppers and are believed to have been made at Machin Mills. In July 1788, Machin Mills bought Walter

Mould's equipment from the Morristown, New Jersey mint. In September 1788, they bought some of the Connecticut minting equipment including some of Abel Buel's device punches. The diversity of tools used and the number of people associated with Machin's Mills may explain why so many different styles of coins were made. Much of the metal used for coining came from old brass cannons and mortars mixed with zinc from copper that had been smelted in a furnace.

The mint ceased operations in 1790-1791 when coining became unprofitable. Walter Breen once estimated that between 100,000 and 200,000 coppers were manufactured at Machin Mills, but others believe that many more were made.

Today numismatists continue to try to determine which coins were made at Machin Mills, and the reasoning behind the many varieties.

In addition to his historic chains across the Hudson and his coining venture, Machin's interesting life included his surveying a proposed canal route across Cape Cod. He was a Masonic officer and a member of the Society of the Cincinnati. Thomas Machin died in 1816 at the age of 72. His grave, accompanied by a historic marker, is located in Carlisle, New York.



Point Counterpoint

Do the Washington Success Tokens Belong in a Colonial Collection?

As with the Mott token earlier, I am enclosing different opinions on the Washington Success Tokens, another piece of unclear origin traditionally collected as colonial. We welcome your comments and

opinions about these pieces, or about the opinions here expressed.

Dave Bowers

With regard to the Washington SUCCESS TO THE UNITED STATES token, I have always felt that this is a *candidate* for an item made later than conventional wisdom suggests. It is popular theory that this was made for the second inauguration of George Washington, but to me the piece is more of the composition and fabric of the German "spielmarke" (literally, "play money") pieces from the middle of the next century--- the same genre as certain California tokens, store cards, etc., circa the 1850s and 1860s. My comments are strictly a hunch or a feeling; I have not researched this particular issue in depth. Of course, if a contemporary (from the 1790s description of the token could be found in a newspaper or elsewhere-such as exists for the 1790 Manly medal, for example then I would quickly move into the populous camp of people believing the token was made in the 1790s. However, until then I tend to be a bit skeptical.

Michael Hodder

Re: the undated Washington Success Tokens, Baker 265-7, there's no absolutely sure way to know exactly when these were made. The earliest documentary reference I know of that mentions them is in an expense book dated September 9, 1834. There, they are called "counters". The book mentioning them was in Carl Carlson's library sold by George Kolbe in June of 1996. To my eye, the style and fabric of the Washington Success tokens points to a late 18th or early 19th century American manufacture. I'd date them ca. 1790-1815.

John J. Ford, Jr.

The Washington "Success" tokens were undoubtedly struck in Birmingham, circa 1796. The 15 alternate reverse stars appear diagnostic, since the United States had 15 states only from 1792-1796 (Tennessee became the 16th state on June 1, 1796). They were presumably gambling or whist "chits" closely resembling the guineas and half guineas in size. The reverse legend "Success to the United States" would have been particularly appropriate for the turbulent times surrounding Washington's second inauguration. I disagree

with J.D. Dewitt about the restrikes.

L. B. Fauver

In response to your recent inquiry regarding the approximate dating of the Washington Success tokens, I'll offer the following comments, for what they are worth.

1. Baker is the earliest direct reference I know of to this series.

2. The fabric of these pieces is much more consistent with their use as counters than a medium of exchange (tokens). Both gold-plated and silver-plated varieties are known of the early strikes - excluding Baker-266 and 266A, which are restrikes of the 1860s. The presence of plating is fairly typical of early American counters.

3. The firm of Kettle of Birmingham, England, dominated the American counter market from 1803 until the early 1840s. I have tried on numerous occasions to link the die punches used on the Washington Success tokens to known Kettle die punches, but without success.

4. These two sizes of counters could have been used as substitutes for either U.S. half eagles and quarter eagles, or for British guineas and half guineas. Contemporary counters of both the 19-20mm range and the 24.5-25mm range were used in the United States during the 1790s through at least 1820.

5. This series was probably manufactured in Great Britain. Varieties of Washington Success tokens are known with plain edges, while additional varieties are known with engrailed edges. Engrailed edges are fairly unique to British counter manufacturers.

6. Both diameters of the Washington Success tokens bear fifteen stars on the reverse. The symbolism of these dies, a radiant sun shining its benevolence on the fifteen stars together with the legend: "SUCCESS TO THE UNITED STATES", suggests that the fifteen stars stand for the fifteen states of the United States when the pieces were issued.

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Vermont joined the United States as the 14th state in 1791. Kentucky joined as the 15th in 1792. Tennessee joined as the 16th in 1796. If this interpretation of the star symbolism is correct, the Washington Success counters can be dated in the approximate period 1792-1795.

Editor’s comments:

There seems to be substantial agreement in that these pieces were most likely game counters. As to the timing of issue, I favor the idea of these being a product of the 1790’s myself. The reverse seems to copy the Constellatio Nova design. And the fabric of the token, particularly the reverse, seems more like late 18th century. Furthermore, I agree with John Ford in that “Success to the United States” made a lot of sense in the 1790’s when that success was anything but certain. In the nineteenth century, after having beat the British twice this was pretty much a foregone conclusion. It would have possibly applied during the civil war, but the term “union”, rather than United States, would have been expected. But even more persuasive to me is the argument of the 15 stars. When a reference to the United States’ early days was made using stars, 13 would have been the expected number of stars. It seems to me illogical that some token maker in the mid nineteenth century would make such a reference using 15 stars, unless there was some diehard token maker from Kentucky (the 15th state) at the time who we do not know about and who wanted to change history.

Again, we welcome any comments on this matter from the readers.



Auction Notes

By John Griffiee

1- EAN "Autograph-Coins" sale, January 13, 1996, lot #499. This coin was part of my collection, which was auctioned at C4's First Sale on October 21, 1995. The pedigree under the coin description should have reported the following:

M&G Griffiee Sale, 10/95 lot 7, purchased from Raymond Smith, 12/13/89.

If you are the owner of the above coin and did not receive the M&G ticket, the Griffiee envelope, or the Smith ticket please contact me (see address in next article). I will write a note stating that I owned the coin and that it was in the M&G auction.

2 -For those of you who like to make catalog corrections, on the first line of the description of this St. Patrick's farthing, it is called a "Breen 208". This is incorrect. The correct number should be 216 (Large 8 below king).

With a magnifying glass, look near the bottom edge on the obverse (at 6:00), and you will see the top half of the "8".

3- EAHA, Mail Bid Auction, February 13, 1999, lot #705. Although no pedigree is listed, it should read "M&G, Fourth C4 Sale, 11/98, lot #289.



St. Patrick's Coinage Projects

By John Griffiee

There are two projects underway regarding St. Patrick's coinage.

- 1- Stan Stephens (address in front of newsletter under club officers) is preparing a reference listing of all known coins in the hands of US collectors.

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- 2- I am working on a book on these coins. It will cover more than you ever wanted to know about St. Patrick's coinage, including early history, facts about Marc Newby, enlargements of all known die varieties (at least 200 or more), and an attribution and rarity guide.

Well-known photographer and copper expert, Bill Noyes, is the official photographer for both of the above projects.

Please help us with these two projects. Let me know if you have any of these coins, even if your collection contains only one of these coins. Stan and I will see how we can have your coin(s) photographed. Bill attends the C4, EAC, and FUN conventions, plus a limited number of additional shows on both the East and West coasts.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

John M. Griffiee



Notice About C4 Auction Price List

John Griffiee brought to my attention that the list published in the last issue did not specify that the numbers listed did not include the 10% buyer's premium. Please note that they represent the winning bid.

In addition, lot #515 was also a donated lot with the proceeds going to the C4 treasury.



Wanted to buy, Machins Mills Coppers!
Varieties: Vlack 4-71C, 9-76B small date, 13-87CT in any grade.
Please call, write, or ship with price desired.

E-mail: vermont@ix.netcom.com

U.S. COMMUNION TOKENS WANTED: Early American and Canadian issues. Collections or single pieces. Also need Communion token literature, especially the Cresswell book.

WANTED: I am buying colonial paper in lows grades, pin notes, sewn together currency, and other era related paper issues of interest. Also wanted: All New Jersey St. Patrick's coinage for my personal collection. If you have other Red Book colonial duplicates for sale, please write me with price, grade and variety. Thank you.

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Desperately Wanted:

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Reminders

Colonial Happening:


The following coppers will be featured during the happening at 7 PM on Thursday April 15th:

St. Patrick Halfpennies: All varieties in any grade, especially any C reverse.

New Jersey coppers 70-x, 71-y, 72-z, 72.5, 73-aa, and 79-85.

Connecticut coppers: Any Machin Mills produced coppers.

Club table:

As always, help will be needed behind the club table. Please contact Dennis Wierzba at 

Photography:

Please bring some of your coins to photograph for our photofile. Especially wanted are R-5 or higher NJ and Conn. and colonial type coins in any grade or any in VF or higher grade. Also wanted are Castorland pieces from original dies, and large head Nova Eboracs. Jim Skalbe is also interested in checking your Mott tokens for weight, diameter and die state. If you have any of the above, please bring them along.



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